



FAIRFIELD COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Fairfield County Medical Association
Public Health Committee
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Testimony in Support of SB 213, An Act Concerning Medical Assistants to Administer Vaccines

The members of the Fairfield County Medical Association are in strong support of SB 213, An Act Concerning Medical Assistants to Administer Vaccine. This issue has been presented many times to the Connecticut General Assembly and the time has come for the proposal to become law. Here are the reasons why:

- Only two states in the nation do not allow medical assistants to administer vaccines and Connecticut is one of those jurisdictions. Interestingly, Connecticut trains medical assistants who can administer vaccines in other states, but when the medical assistants return to Connecticut, they are prohibited from giving vaccines.
- This past year, Connecticut allowed pharmacy technicians who receive only 1.5 hours of online training, to administer vaccines. This contrasts with medical assistants who receive no less than 8 hours of training in a clinical setting the administration of vaccines. In addition, under the proposed bill, the medical assistant must have 720 hours of training to qualify as a certified medical assistant through either the American Medical Technologists or America Association of Medical Assistants.
- Giving injections is a safe procedure. There is no evidence in the medical literature of an adverse event as a result of a medical assistant giving vaccines. Additionally, patients with absolutely no health care training, self-inject with things such as Botox, Vitamin B and insulin.
- Medical assistants will only be allowed to administer vaccine under the direct order and on-site supervision of a physician or a nurse practitioner. Physician Assistants should be included with those professionals who can provide supervision to medical assistants.
- Just as hospitals are having difficulty with the recruitment and retention of nurses, so too are medical practices. In fact, the problem is worse for medical practices due to their inability to compete with the salary compensation packages offered by hospitals to nurses. Medical practices are finding it difficult to attract nurses and the ability of medical assistants to administer vaccines will help medical practices operate more efficiently.

- The issue of medical assistants being able to administer vaccine received favorable support by the Connecticut Department of Public Health Scope Review Committee.
- The proposal will help keep the private practice of primary care vibrant in Connecticut, thereby, lowering the cost of medical care.